

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 4, 2004

LB 962

eyeball. Let us see which one shall blink. We do come from two different worlds or two different sides of the world. The Governor comes from the white privileged side. I come from the black oppressed side. His pampered, privileged upbringing has rendered him presumptuous and arrogant. My difficult life has rendered me strong, determined and persistent. So we're going to see who will blink. Nothing energizes me as much as somebody picking a fight with me. The Governor has baited me this morning, and I am going to rise to the bait. I'm going to take the bait. And if he wants a fight in the Legislature, I shall grant him his request. I'm tempted to read other parts of this article, but I won't. If you will notice, the Governor said a special session would be called. Why? Not to salvage his mental health bill, because that is of no concern to him, but a bill to change the way the state kills people. Does that tell you something about values? It is more important to him to find a way to kill people than to do anything about mental health problems. Why did not this man who wears his religion on his sleeve, and on his forehead on Ash Wednesday, why didn't this holy man say that his job is to look after those who cannot look after themselves, and he will call a special session to deal with these mental health issues if they are not dealt with this session? But, no, the politician that he is, the hypocrite that he is, and he exposed himself, the death penalty--killing people by the state--is more important to him than anything else. How am I in a position to criticize him when my conduct baited him and he took the bait? Because I am trying to stop the state from killing, and the two positions are not equivalent. If he calls a special session, does that mean anything to me? No. He might derail the political careers of some of the people in this Legislature by calling a special session during campaign season. Does that make me a difference? Absolutely not. If he waits until after the campaign season and calls it in the middle of November, we'll have a chance to get into a good mood before the session starts in 2005. So let him challenge me, and let me put up or shut up. That's what I ought to do. I'm the one who stands on this floor and say that I will dig my heels in, I will fight and I will prevail. Let him make me take my whipping from this Legislature. And I will tell you all how you can whip me, how you can shut me up starting this morning. Senator Schrock can invoke cloture, and you all can vote for cloture. Senator